

Please amend the specification as follows:

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Brief Description of the Drawings

A presently preferred implementation of a messaging system running commercially available hardware and commodity software and communicating data employing Internet-based protocols and standards in accordance with the present invention is further described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a system diagram of a prior art messaging system;

Fig. 1A is a block diagram providing further details of a prior art Network Interface Unit of a messaging system of Fig. 1;

Fig. 2 is a block diagram of a messaging system in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a block diagram of a software architecture of a messaging system of the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a state diagram of the processing states experienced by an embedded services processor (ESP) in accordance with the present invention; and

Fig. 5 is a flow diagram of the processing performed by the messaging system when executing messaging application functions in accordance with the present invention.